

from foreign countries. During the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, foreign oil accounted for only 35 percent of America's oil supply.

Politicians had better give consideration to the economic calamity sure to occur in America if and when foreign producers shut off our supply—or double the already enormous cost of imported oil flowing into the U.S.—now 8,287,000 barrels a day.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 5, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,486,129,027,438.95 (Five trillion, four hundred eighty-six billion, one hundred twenty-nine million, twenty-seven thousand, four hundred thirty-eight dollars and ninety-five cents).

One year ago, May 5, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,332,472,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred thirty-two billion, four hundred seventy-two million).

Five years ago, May 5, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,243,813,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred forty-three billion, eight hundred thirteen million).

Ten years ago, May 5, 1988, the federal debt stood at \$2,516,506,000,000 (Two trillion, five hundred sixteen billion, five hundred six million).

Fifteen years ago, May 5, 1983, the federal debt stood at \$1,255,471,000,000 (One trillion, two hundred fifty-five billion, four hundred seventy-one million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,230,658,027,438.95 (Four trillion, two hundred thirty billion, six hundred fifty-eight million, twenty-seven thousand, four hundred thirty-eight dollars and ninety-five cents) during the past 15 years.

"YOUTH HEALTH ISSUES"

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a commendable group of Vermont teens. Oftentimes, society shortchanges teenagers by placing unfair stereotypes upon them and by not listening to what they have to say. The eighth grade students of Barton Academy have written an article to prove that they, as teens, are vital members of their community and of society as a whole. I was particularly impressed with not only the message but with the eloquence of this article. I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that all Senators may read the words of these fine teenagers.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the 1997 Vermont Kids Count]

YOUTH HEALTH ISSUES

The following article, written by a class of Barton eighth graders, introduces this section on youth health issues. It provides the

much-needed perspectives of teenagers, drawing attention to not only their daily lives but to the heart of many teen issues—the adult society in which they live and grow.

TEENS DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST STEREOTYPES

We present ourselves not as problems to society, but as we really are, 32 teens looking at themselves and society. Not statistics, but the real thing, us. We would like to present what we do that we are proud of, feel we have accomplished, and what we have given to others. We come from all social and economic backgrounds and come together each day in our town school. We have our ups and downs with each other, but get along more often than we do not. Life is not perfect, but neither is yours.

If you knew us, lived with us, celebrated and grieved with us there would be no need for this response. However, it is our experience that most adults simply ignore, disregard or fear teens. How many adults can you see in any given line at a movie even nod recognition of a teen's humanity, much less start a short conversation? We want to start that conversation.

Hey Mister, did you know that some of us do barn chores before we even go to school every morning. We do evening chores, too. In between, we go to school, make honor roll on occasion, play sports, participate in band and chorus and ride the roller coaster of adolescence.

Some of us have part-time jobs to earn the money we want for things. We shovel snow, mow lawns, baby-sit and clean houses for less than minimum wage. We've saved our money for a few years to get what we wanted. We also earn money to buy some of our own clothing, sports equipment and entertainment. Some of us even earn money to contribute to family necessities. Imagine that.

We have a sense of community. Who do you see picking up the trash along our roads and fields during Green Up Day? Who is collecting bottles for a class trip? Who are the crossing guards so younger children won't get hit by cars? Whose clothes have thoughtfully been gone through and chosen with care to give to clothing centers, or victims of fires? We have given our clothes, our bicycles, games, money and music to others in need just because we were asked.

We, the 32 teens of the eighth grade of Barton, have volunteered to carry elders' grocery bags just because we saw them struggling. We also volunteer to shovel out our grandparents' dooryards, and even accept the money they insist we take because we know it makes them feel good, too. We march and play our musical instruments in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades in honor of those who served. Sometimes we go to local nursing homes and play our instruments or sing. Sometimes we go just to share and talk.

Most of us have family responsibilities that we honor. We split wood and stack it; and move it from one place to another. We trudge through snow and mud to gather sap and help sugar. We do the laundry for the family, set the table, cook some meals, and clean up afterward and empty the trash. We grumble, but we do the chores. We watch our younger brothers and sisters. For the most part, we think we are pretty helpful. Some of us were even responsible for bringing the possibility of recycling into our homes.

Did you know that teens in our community volunteer to tutor younger children? Some of the teens at Lake Region Union High School coach our junior hoop program and referee our games. Most of us would gladly lend a hand if we were asked.

Society says that our job is school. Mandatory. We do that, too. We go, learn, try to learn, and try to learn again. Sometimes we give up but not too often. The dropout rate at Lake Region Union High School is less than 2 percent, according to Lake Region Annual Report, Jan. 15, 1997. We might not be in the top 10 percent of the world's smartest kids, but do we really need to be? Society is a problem to us sometimes, too. If you want to separate society into parts, we, as teens and citizens, are not responsible for the pollution of the world, the genocide in most corners, poverty, homeless people, pornography, gridlock and the corruption of our national leaders. Drugs are everywhere. Do we manufacture them or smuggle them into the country? Society has taught us from the first time we viewed a sporting event that beer is where it's at. How are we to sort out the mixed messages we are bombarded with? We listen weekly to the adults in the news who compare us unfavorably with the test scores of other countries. We do not make the movies rated PG-13 that include more profanity than we would ever think of using. Where are the everyday role models that you would like us to emulate?

Our advice—get to know a teen up front and personal. We don't like the word scapegoat for anyone. It makes it too easy to cast the first stone.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT CONCERNING THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND UKRAINE CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 122

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123b. and 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153 (b), (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the United States of America and Ukraine Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms